

# The Problem of Pain - Part I

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## Part I - Introduction

### Kinds of Evil

- Circumstantial Evil – It appears \_\_\_\_\_ is in charge
- Moral Evil - It appears \_\_\_\_\_ is in charge

### Every Worldview's Problem

#### Naturalism

- You and all that happens to you, is an \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore meaningless whether you consider it "good" or "bad"
- There is no way things \_\_\_\_\_ to be, therefore you cannot say there is anything \_\_\_\_\_, you are merely less fit for survival

#### Hinduism/Buddhism

- It's your fault. You did something in a former life that created the bad \_\_\_\_\_ that caused this.

#### Islam

- It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Allah. Suck it up.
- He decided you were the one to be a doormat. Consider it an \_\_\_\_\_.

#### New Age/Scientology

- It's an illusion. You're \_\_\_\_\_ it up!
- By the way, your joy and happiness are an \_\_\_\_\_ as well.

#### Christianity has a unique explanation to make because:

- It credits a \_\_\_\_\_ with the way things are
- The claims of Christians and the reality that exists seems extremely \_\_\_\_\_.

## Clashing Evidence

### Things Christians Believe

- God created all things.
- God is the embodiment of love and goodness.
- God is omnipotent (\_\_\_\_\_)
- God is omniscient (\_\_\_\_\_)
- God is omnipresent (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Evil exists

### Things Christians say:

- The Traditional (not historic) Christian Narrative
  - Focus is on God's \_\_\_\_\_, not human choice and \_\_\_\_\_ and God's work to free them.
  - The focus is about \_\_\_\_\_ this flopped project not joining a revolution to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

### Things Christians say:

- Jesus will give you a better life
- God has pre-\_\_\_\_\_ everything
- God wins sometimes and the rest of the time?? He \_\_\_\_\_??

### Things "Christians" Do:

- Joh 13:35 - \_\_\_\_\_ and division
- Joh 14:15 - \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyles

## Part I - The story

### A Creator of Goodness and Beauty

- Good! Good! Good!

### A Giver Giving

- God becomes the center of all by \_\_\_\_\_.
- As fallen humans, we become the center by \_\_\_\_\_.

### A Community creating community

- Let \_\_\_\_\_... in \_\_\_\_\_ image
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ created he them
- Obvious \_\_\_\_\_ terminology

### A lover desiring to be desired

- The Ideal Proposal
- The tree of the knowledge of good and evil = freedom to choose
- Jer 31:32 "Though I was an \_\_\_\_\_ unto them."
- Luke 19:41-44 \_\_\_\_\_

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- Rev 3:20 - Evil in the World is because a product that is not the result of love is worthless to God
  - "He cannot \_\_\_\_\_; He can only \_\_\_\_\_." — C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

### A villain inciting independence

- Evil is a result of our rejection of God's invitation of \_\_\_\_\_ and hoofing it on our own.

### A treasure sold to a tyrant

- Rom 6:16 -We have \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and our world to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ evil as well as damnation is what we get paid working for him.

### A lover who will stop at nothing to redeem

#### THE INCARNATION

- "God became an \_\_\_\_\_" – Bruchko
- God knows by \_\_\_\_\_ what it is to live as a human in a sin-cursed earth

### A restored relationship and realm

- Jesus describes his death has an " \_\_\_\_\_ " and " \_\_\_\_\_ " Freeing us from the slavery we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves into.
- He describes the purpose of his life as leading a \_\_\_\_\_ to defeat the kingdom of hell and restore the union of \_\_\_\_\_ (God's realm) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Man's realm).

## Part I – Thinking deeper

*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32*

### God is all powerful

- God is not \_\_\_\_\_ by anyone or anything
- Because of His \_\_\_\_\_ there are some things God will not do
- Gen 1:26, Gen 1:28, Ps 8:6 - God \_\_\_\_\_ part of his power to humans
- God values \_\_\_\_\_ supremely and will not over-ride it!

### God is all knowing

- God knows all \_\_\_\_\_
- God knows the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- So, God knows things about all \_\_\_\_\_ and all places
- God therefore has all \_\_\_\_\_
- God knows by \_\_\_\_\_ what it is to live as a human in a sin-cursed earth

### God is omnipresent

- God is in every \_\_\_\_\_
- God inhabits \_\_\_\_\_
- God is simultaneously at all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Nothing escapes His observation or awareness

### God is good

- God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of goodness
- He is not good because of what He \_\_\_\_\_ but what He does is good because of \_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_.

### Evil Exists

- \_\_\_\_\_ exist in opposition to God’s character of goodness
- \_\_\_\_\_ occur that are contrary to the goodness God created
- Evil is nothing of itself. is the \_\_\_\_\_ of good
- We determine evil or good based on our perception of its effect on our experience from our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- If God exists, why is there so much evil? If God doesn’t exist, why is there so much \_\_\_\_\_?
- The better something is, the worse it’s \_\_\_\_\_.
- Evil exists now but God says it will be defeated and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Summing It Up

- God made a good world
- Free will/Love
- Delegated power to humans
- Man’s choice to be other than good = a world other than good: evil.
- God entered our brokenness
- Evil is temporary- it will be judged and ended.
- God has/is redeeming evil